



Behind the Star

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 4

JANUARY, 2010

MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF



The sudden, unpredictable, and often violent nature of crime hit home in a personal way for the 219 men and women of the Sheriff's Office on December 27, 2009.

One of our Deputies was getting ready to depart for church services from his home and was alerted to suspicious activity at the rear of a neighbor's house. The Deputy phoned 911 and went to investigate, knowing the residents were not home.

Upon arriving at the rear of the house, he interrupted a burglary involving three suspects. One of the suspects produced a handgun and fired at the deputy from a distance of eight to ten feet. The Deputy took cover and returned fire. Neither the Deputy or suspects were hit by gunfire. He sustained an injury to his hand as a result of falling to the ground during the confrontation.

The initial decision by our Deputy to investigate the activity at a neighbor's residence while off-duty speaks to his character and commitment to keeping his community safe. The subsequent valor and courage he displayed when confronting the three suspects and exchanging gunfire with one of them was exceptional. I have been in this profession for 31 years and have never witnessed greater heroism. The Deputy's actions that day reflect the finest tradition of law enforcement and our Office.

We all salute and honor him.

Dana Lawhorne
Sheriff

RESPECTABILITY MATTERS

GED GRADUATION

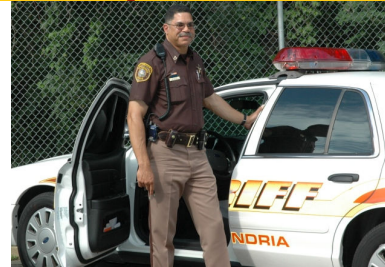
On October 20, 2009, the Alexandria Detention Center Inmate Services Division held another GED Graduation. This graduating class consisted of five inmates from the Program Unit here at the Detention Center. The guest speaker for the graduation was Kris Gulden, a criminal justice teacher at T.C. Williams High School. Ms. Gulden started her career with the Alexandria Sheriff's Office before joining the Alexandria Police Department and retiring due to an accident. She is highly respected in both agencies for her courage and never give up attitude. Ms. Gulden told her own personal story of never quitting no matter the obstacle and encouraged the graduates to do the same. Refreshments were served for those in attendance.



Warrants and Transportation

The warrant section is responsible for serving warrants such as fugitive, failure to appear warrants, probation violation and protective orders. In the last quarter of 2009, two hundred and thirty five warrants were served by Deputy Cole and Deputy Mason of our warrant squad.

The transportation section is responsible for transporting inmates to other facilities, in state and out of state. They are also responsible for adult and juvenile court transports, mental hearings and medical transports. During the last quarter, four hundred and seven transports were completed by our transportation section. Deputy Jefferies, Pitts and Deputy Poarch make up the transportation section.



Deputy Pitts (above)
Deputies Mason, Jefferies, Cole
and Poarch. (left to right)



2nd Annual Food Drive

From October 11, 2009 through November 11, 2009, the Sheriff's Office held its 2nd annual food drive. Last year the goal was 217 items donated to ALIVE Charity to be distributed in the City of Alexandria. Last year the Sheriff's Office reached their goal and this year doubled that effort. Deputy Zedalis and Deputy Wooden delivered the food to the ALIVE warehouse where Ms. Campbell greeted them.

If you are interested in joining a future effort, please do not hesitate to call our Community Relations Unit at 703-746-5017.





Highlight Deputy for November 2009

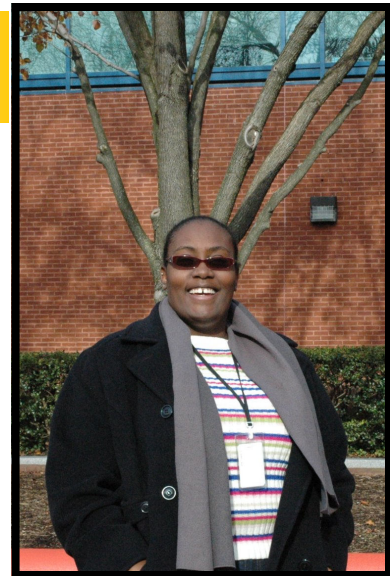
Deputy William Durham has been employed with the Sheriff's Office for seven years. Since joining the Office, he has worked at the Courthouse and is currently working in Jail Security on Team 2B.

Deputy Durham is known for his sense of humor and he is an honored member our Honor Guard Team.

Highlight Employee for December 2009

Carlita Cook started working at the Alexandria Sheriff's Office in 2007. She is currently working in our Records Department on Team 1B.

Ms. Cook is known as a quiet person but has a gracious, sweet personality. She is always willing to help and assist her fellow coworkers and is an example of the staff we have working in our Records Department.



Academy Graduation Session 121



On December 21, 2009, three members of the Alexandria Sheriff's Office graduated from the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy. The graduation was held at George Mason University. Deputies (from left to right) Gravette, Corso, and Williams are shown with Sheriff Lawhorne. They earned certification in both Corrections and Law Enforcement.

Work Detail in the Community



Deputy Zedalis



Deputy Velez



Deputy Wooden



before

George Washington Middle School



after



The Work Detail saved the
City
\$205,774.00 in 2009

Hours worked by
Work Detail were 7,510.

Meals on Wheels



Meals on Wheels was desperately in need of help in delivering 66 meals on Tuesday December 22, 2010. Without hesitation, Sheriff Lawhorne enlisted help from his daughter, Mallory, and delivered 15 meals to seniors who were shut in. Deputy Burnham and Chief Gleeson also volunteered and delivered 15 meals each and Deputy O'Dell delivered 11 meals. The help from the Sheriff's Department guaranteed that the recipients would have meals for Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.



Toys for Tots

December was the month for giving back to the community. Ms. Costley, Sergeant Oliver, Ms. Echane, Ms. Sofonia and Deputy Stubblefield (pictured left to right) led the charge for the toys for inmates program. The toys were donated by the U.S. Marine Corp Toys for Tots Program. Over three hundred toys were given to the children of inmates incarcerated at the Alexandria Detention Center.



Canine

Sherman is a bomb detection canine. Deputy O'Hara, his handler, and Sherman have dual certifications with ATF and United States Police Canine Association. They have assisted the Alexandria Police Department with missing persons, suspicious packages and weapons searches. Deputy O'Hara and Sherman have also assisted other jurisdictions as well as conduct courthouse sweeps of the Alexandria courthouse on a regular basis.



Deputy O'Hara and Sherman

EMPLOYEE AWARDS



Deputies Guzman, Stubblefield, Le, Perez, Moore and Gilmore were elevated to rank of Deputy II



Deputies Ohri, Perry, Wright, Mackey, Molaski, Graves and Moss were elevated to rank of Deputy III



Deputies Scott, Pierre, Murray, Buker and Howard were elevated to the rank of Deputy IV



Deputies Neebe, Lawhorne, Kelly and Josiah were promoted to the rank of Sergeant



Sergeant Dewberry was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant

On November 17, 2009, the Sheriff's Office held its annual ceremony to honor staff promoted or elevated, as well as recognize staff for outstanding performance. Circuit Court Clerk Edward Semonian provided the oath of office. Mr. Steve Lenkart, a high ranking official with the Department of Homeland Security, gave remarks that included an interesting explanation of the meaning of the insignias of the various military ranks. In addition, Ms. Ginger Lathan, part owner of Clyde's Restaurant Group, was presented a plaque in recognition of Clyde's many years of hosting an event recognizing the areas first responders.

The following staff was recognized for outstanding service:

- Deputy Audrey Eskridge
- Deputy Lisa Speed
- Sergeant Ronald Lawhorne
- Deputy Trina Graves
- Mr. Harry Covert
- Ms. Desha Hall-Winstead

All of those promoted and recognized for outstanding performance are shown with Sheriff Dana Lawhorne.

Archie Doering, building superintendent of First Baptist Church, received an award on behalf of the church for its dedication to the Sheriff's Office



Captain DiCesare promoted to Chief Deputy



David Tubbs was honored for his contribution to the Sheriff's Office by an employee of a city agency



Mr. Henry Young was awarded outstanding performance by a civilian.



Mr. Rony Wise was awarded best Idea of the Year and outstanding performance by a civilian supervisor



HOLIDAY PROGRAM



On December 18, 2009, eight inmates sang songs during our annual program for fellow inmates unable to spend the holidays with loved ones. Members of the Program Staff organized this popular event. Inmates attending were given the opportunity to have a photo taken with a holiday setting in the background. They were given the option of sending the photo to a loved one.

“Voices of Change”

FORMER REDSKINS LINEBACKER KEN HARVEY

On November 19, 2009, former Redskins linebacker Ken Harvey made inspirational remarks during a monthly event held for our inmates. Mr. Harvey, the author of children's books, made a subsequent donation of books to inmates involved in a program that allows them to audio and video record the reading of a children's book. The recordings were then sent to their children. This program was recently expanded to our male population.



CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD



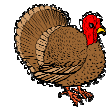
Standing left to right (Annie Doster, Tom Cullen, Sheriff Lawhorne, Jane Reedy, Iris Henley) Seated left to right (Mary Hartzler, Melinda Douglas, Sallie Craft, Joe Errington)

The Alexandria Sheriff's Office's Correctional Services Advisory Board is a citizen-based body that advises, supports, and assists in the coordination of community resources benefitting individuals incarcerated in the Alexandria Detention Center. Board members consist of citizen volunteers or representatives from Alexandria civic groups, business, professional and/or community action organizations. This is one of the components that contribute to the Sheriff's Office triple crown accreditations by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Commission on Accreditation for Corrections and the National Commission on Correctional Health Care.

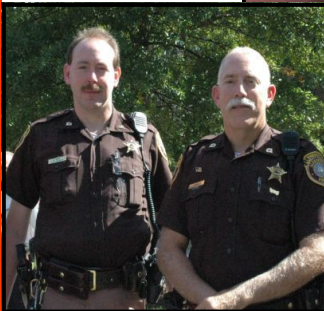
TURKEY DELIVERY TO HOPKINS HOUSE



On November 23, 2009, the Sheriff's Office partnered with the IBM Corporation, located in Gaithersburg, Maryland, to provide 60 complete turkey dinners as part of Project Thanksgiving. Sheriff's Deputies delivered the food donated by IBM to Hopkins House for distribution to needy families in Alexandria.



SEX OFFENDER SWEEP



October 20, 2009, the Alexandria Sheriff's Office participated in a Sex Offender Sweep with the Virginia State Police and Alexandria Police Department. Twenty-two verification checks were conducted to ensure that the registered sex offenders complied with reporting requirements. Twenty-one home addresses were verified and an arrest warrant was issued for an individual whose address could not be verified. Deputies Duff and Triplett (left) were two of the seven deputies who participated in this effort.

STICKER SHOCK EVENT 2009

On October 10, 2009, the Alexandria Sheriff's Office joined forces with the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition for Sticker Shock 2009. Sticker Shock consisted of volunteer youth visiting stores in Alexandria and placing stickers on cases of beer informing individuals of the consequences of purchasing beer for underage individuals. On the same day, Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun counties joined in this effort to combat underage drinking in Northern Virginia. Each store was given a certificate for their participation.



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This newsletter written and compiled by:
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We're on the web at
www.alexandriava.gov/sheriff

The Alexandria Sheriff's Office is responsible for the operation of the Detention Center, Courthouse and Courtroom security, service of all court legal documents, execution of court orders, transportation of prisoners, execution of arrest warrants, and general public safety and law enforcement. All powers, responsibilities and duties of the Alexandria Sheriff's Office derive from common law, the Virginia Constitution, the Code of Virginia and Alexandria Charter.



“Respect, Responsibility and Results”